



**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Tsutomu SAWA, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/170,225

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: 3652

Filed: October 13, 1998

Examiner: S. McAllister

For: FEED BELT

0/16  
EA  
4-23-02

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RECEIVED**  
MAR 27 2002  
**GROUP 3600**

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please cancel claims 2 and 6 without prejudice or disclaimer.**

**RECEIVED**  
MAR 29 2002  
Technology Center 2100

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

1. (Amended) A feed belt, adapted to feeding members comprising at least one of papers, tickets, bank notes, plastic or paper cards and coins, comprising:

an elastic material having a hardness corresponding to rubber hardness 15 to 90;

10 to 70 percent by weight of high hardness particles dispersed throughout the elastic material, said high hardness particles having a particle diameter of 3 to 300  $\mu\text{m}$ ;

characterized in that the high hardness particles project from a feed surface of the belt, where the projecting amount of the high hardness particles increases with the elasticity of the elastic material when a member to be fed is fed, and the projecting amount of the high hardness particles varies according to the pressure applied to the belt from an external source, where the pressure applied to the belt from an external source varies with the shape or hardness